This questionnaire is designed to gather information from IALA members on their experiences with the use of plastic buoys. This will then be collated and used to enable members to make informed choices on the selection of the most appropriate material for their specific buoy application.

5011

1. How many buoys do you have in your current buoy fleet ? ………………………………..…
2. Regarding the materials of construction, how many are:

462

855

Steel …………………………………………………………………………..……………….

Composite metal & plastic ………………………………………………………..…………

3694

Plastic ……………………………………………………………………………………..…..

Other (please specify) …………………………………………**Wood!**…………………………….

1. Buoy fleet by buoy body diameter and material, please complete the table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Material | 1m dia or less | 1 to 2.2 m dia | Greater than 2.3m dia |
| Steel |  | 462 |  |
| Composite metal & plastic |  |  |  |
| Plastic | 3694 |  |  |
| Other (**Wood**) | 855 |  |  |

1. For your plastic buoy fleet, what type of plastic material is used ?

Polyethylene

1. Are the plastic buoy bodies filled or empty ?

X

Filled Empty

Please specify filler type **Polystyrene**………………………………………...

35

1. How many years have you been using plastic buoys ? …………………………………...….
2. Regarding the location / conditions of service for your plastic buoys, check the boxes that apply:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Inshore | X |
| Offshore |  |
| Exposed |  |
| Sheltered | X |
| Breaking waves |  |
| Dries at low tide |  |
| Severe UV exposure |  |
| Severe sub zero temperature | X |

1. Are your plastic buoys a commercial design or your own authority’s design ?

X

X

Commercial Design Own Design

1. How often do you visit your buoys at sea ?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Material | 1m dia or less | 1 to 2.2 m dia | Greater than 2.3m dia |
| Steel |  | Ones/year |  |
| Composite metal & plastic |  |  |  |
| Plastic | 1 – 10/year |  |  |
| Other (**Wood**) | Ones/year |  |  |

1. For your plastic buoys, what is the main reason for inspection / maintenance at sea ?

Not in plastic buoys only in steel buoys.

We don’t do any maintenance ashore!

Checking the position after the ice-season.

Cleaning marine fouling to prevent the spare-buoy to sink.

1. How often do you return your buoys to shore for maintenance ?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Material | 1m dia or less | 1 to 2.2 m dia | Greater than 2.3m dia |
| Steel |  | 3 – 5 year |  |
| Composite metal & plastic |  |  |  |
| Plastic | No maintenance, change to new. |  |  |
| Other (please specify) | 1 – 2 year |  |  |

1. For your plastic buoys, what is the main reason for inspection / maintenance ashore ?
2. What experience do you have in modifying plastic buoys to take new navigation aids, such as AIS ?
3. Have you experienced any in service defects with plastic buoys (such as colour retention, mechanical failure, mechanical damage, mooring lug wear) ?

Some problem with colour retention. Mechanical failure mostly due to heavy ice-conditions.

1. Please detail any experience you have of repairing or re-painting plastic buoys ?

We don’t repair or re-paint plastic buoys.

1. Can you provide any cost comparisons between plastic buoys and traditional steel buoys (this may include initial cost, use of a smaller ship to support the buoy fleet, reduction in buoy maintenance facilities, reduction in overall maintenance costs)

We haven’t done that!

1. Are you planning to purchase more plastic buoys in the near future ?

X

Yes No

8-15 years

1. What is the anticipated life of your plastic buoys ? ………………………………………
2. What is your disposal policy for plastic buoys at the end of their life ?

We recycle al our material!

1. With your experience, what is your general opinion of the use of plastic buoys ?

Good! We general use plastic buoys in sheltered arias.

1. Please provide some photographs of your plastic buoys with sizes & weights (please resize and compress any photographs before insertion):

Weight: 24kg

Height: 4M

Dia: 0,3M

Weight:4-22kg

Height: 4-6M

Dia: 0,3M

Weight: 230kg

Height: 6M

Focalh: 3M

Dia: 0,5-0,6M

Weight: 580kg

Height: 6M

Focal: 3M

Dia: 0,5M

Weight: 24kg

Height: 4M

Dia: 0,3M

